

RESOLUTION NO. RS2019-1746

A resolution recognizing former Deputy District Attorney Tom Thurman for his many years of service to Nashville and Davidson County, upon the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Thomas B. "Tom" Thurman is one such deserving individual who has served the people of Nashville for over four decades, including prosecuting many of Nashville's most notorious criminals for 39 years as an attorney at the Office of the District Attorney General, 20th Judicial District, in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thurman was raised in Crossville, Tennessee, and attended junior college on a basketball scholarship. He then was awarded a tennis scholarship to Tennessee Technical University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master's degree in biology in 1971; and

WHEREAS, with dreams of becoming a catfish farmer, he took a job as a chemist with the Metropolitan Nashville Water Department before attending the Nashville School of Law at night upon a recommendation from his uncle; and

WHEREAS, while in law school, Mr. Thurman became the chief court officer and law clerk for Criminal Court Judge Allen Cornelius from 1973 until 1976, where he fell in love with criminal law and decided to become a prosecutor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thurman began in the Nashville District Attorney's Office in 1977, one of fifteen assistant prosecutors. He was proposed to Deputy District Attorney in 1990 and continued until his retirement from the District Attorney's Office in 2016; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Mr. Thurman was involved in some of the most high-profile cases in Nashville. Judge Cornelius presided over the prosecution of the murders of David "Stringbean" Akeman and his wife while Mr. Thurman was a law clerk. Mr. Thurman went on to prosecute the death-row sentence of serial killer Paul Dennis Reid, the cold-case trial of the murderer of Marica Trimble, and tried Perry March in the disappearance of his wife Janet March, for which he was named a Nashvillian of the Year by the *Nashville Scene*; and

WHEREAS Mr. Thurman has been awarded the President's Award and the Outstanding Service Award from the Tennessee District Attorney's Conference; the Jack Norman Award from the Nashville Bar Association; and the Outstanding Alumni Award from the Nashville School of Law; among many other distinctions; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the Metropolitan Council recognizes and congratulates Tom Thurman upon his retirement and thanks him for his more than four decades of service to Nashville and Davidson County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. The Metropolitan Council hereby goes on record as recognizing Tom Thurman upon the occasion of his retirement for his years of service to Nashville as a member of the District Attorney's Office.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

INTRODUCED BY:

Bill Pridemore

Dave Rosenberg
Members of Council